including small manufacturers, will have to purchase their requirement of tobacco only from the Board;

(c) whether under the scheme the interests of the small tobacco growers and those of small bidi manufacturers would be protected; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The question of bringing non-virginia tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board is under consideration of Government.

Decline in Engineering Export

2376. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineering exports registered a steep decline during September to December 1992 if so, how these exports compared month to month with those during the preceding three months and the corresponding months in the previous year in dollar terms and otherwise; and

(b) what are the details of steps taken/being taken to boost up the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) There has been no decline in rupee or dollar terms in exports of engineering goods during September—November, 1992 as compared to exports in September—November, 1991 or June—August, 1992 as may be seen from the enclosed statement (*See* below). Export figures for the month of December, 1992 are not yet available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

(b) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Extreme Focus on export sectors having high growth potential, facility of conversion of entire export earnings at market rate of exchange, provision of inputs for export production at international prices and exemption of income from exports from income-tax are some of the important constituents of Government's strategy to step up exports.

Statement

Year Month	1992		1991		Month	1992	
	Value of Exports in million US Dollars	Value of Exports in Rs. Crores.	Value of Exports in million US Dollars	Value of Exports in Rs. Crores		Value of Exports in million US Dollars	Value of Exports in million Crores.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
September	190	539	159	413	June	178	507
October	180	510	138	356	July	156	443
November	190	540	124	322	August	180	511